

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-28, and 30-32 are rejected. Claims 8, 18, and 29 are objected to. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-16, 19-22, 26, and 30-32 are amended. Claims 6, 8, 17-18, and 27-29 are canceled. The applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks and allowance of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 18, and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Claims 1, 12, and 22 are amended herein to incorporate the limitations of claims 8, 18, and 29 respectively. Claims 1, 12, and 22 are now in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 4-6, 9-13, 16-17, 19-22, 25-27, and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,078 (Smith) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,430,731 (Gimple). Claims 2-3, 7, 14-15, 23-24, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,078 (Smith) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,430,731 (Gimple) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,286,038 (Reichmeyer). The applicant refrains from a discussion of the rejections in view of the amendments above.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. The applicant therefore solicits their allowance.

A one-month extension of time is hereby requested and authorized. The applicant believes no additional fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine that additional fees are necessary the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 210765.

Respectfully submitted,

/Stephen S. Roche/

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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